4-6-11

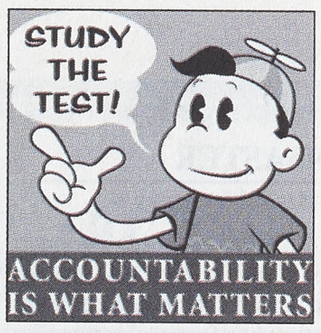
FOLLOW US ON:

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

los angeles valley college's

VALLEY STAR

the independent student newspaper



As budget cuts limit classes, students should take education seriously.

SEE OPINION PAGE 3

Reality television is running wild, offering an unrealistic look at controversial issues.

SEE VALLEY LIFE PAGE 4

The Monarch baseball team faced off against the Bakersfield Renegades Tuesday.

SEE SPORTS PAGE 6

lavalleystar.com | April 6, 2011 | Volume 74 Issue 7

CALIFORNIA'S BALANCING ACT

Legislators' proposed cuts have California balancing its budget on the backs of students.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
NEWS EDITOR

The Valley College community, already reeling from ongoing budget cuts, will face even deeper cuts as Gov. Jerry Brown recently abandoned his efforts to reach a bipartisan budget agreement.

Negotiations stalled last week after Brown failed to secure four republican votes needed to bring his proposed temporary tax increase extension to California voters with a special June election. The extension would have continued the temporary increase in income, sales and vehicle taxes, originally passed in 2009, for an additional five years.

California community colleges, originally dreading a $400 million (5 percent) decrease now face cuts as deep as 10-15 percent.

"Without a June special election on Gov. Brown's tax extension proposal, the chance of an all-cuts budget is highly likely," said California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott. "An $800 million reduction would be unprecedented and an absolute tragedy for our students, faculty and staff, as well as a deep blow for our economy."

Funding cuts mean fewer classes, higher tuition fees and according to Scott, an unprecedented 400,000 students could be denied access to a California community college education.

"A 15 percent cut is so scary … we don't even want to go there," said Valley President Sue Carleo. "Fifteen percent would be absolutely huge. I don't know how we would do it."

Since January, Valley has officially canceled approximately 200 classes. Upcoming summer courses, once offered over two consecutive sessions, have been reduced to a handful of special year-round and self-sustainable programs. The fate of winter session is unknown.

"Don't count on getting something in summer or winter," Carleo said. "We'll do the best we can because we monitor [the budget situation] closely, yet there are certain points where we have to make decisions."

To help survive the budget crisis, Valley has implemented a hiring freeze and will reduce student workers and tutoring programs. Bond-funded construction is producing energy-efficient buildings to reduce future energy costs, while a cap on photocopies and the campus-wide use of e-mail has reduced postage and paper costs. Fall and Spring 2012 are estimated to be at least 10 percent smaller than this year's already reduced schedule.

"We are looking at ways to do more with less," said Carleo. "We're going through everything with a fine-tooth comb. Hopefully we won't get to a layoff of employees."

Many Valley students looking to other community college campuses find similar challenges.

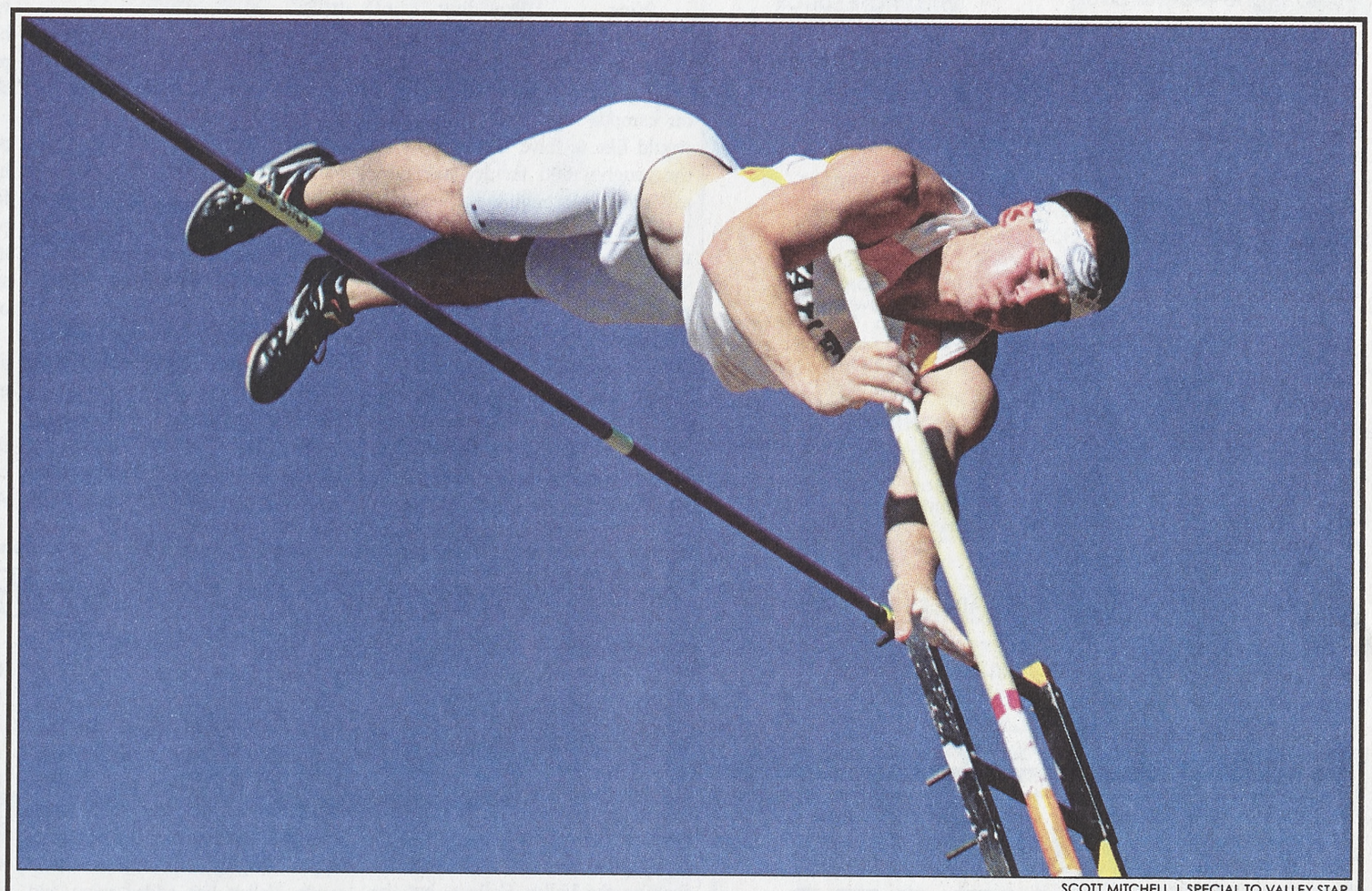
"Pierce's summer schedule came out and it's the leanest I have ever seen it," said Valley student Nicole Plank. "They always have fewer cuts than Valley. Doesn't make me very hopeful."

On Thursday, nearly 100 Valley students held a "die-in" on campus to protest budget cuts and fee increases. Students lay lifeless amid handmade tombstones declaring the death of education and opportunity.

"They're cutting classes, they're cutting everything, and raising the prices. It's impossible," Valley student Christina Brickhouse told KNBC's Conan Nolan.

Carleo said the current economic challenges facing education are the worst she has seen throughout her career.

"It's very sad," she said. "We're here to provide education for our students … it's the reason we're here. We're being downsized. In the private sector, when companies are downsized, sometimes they go out of business. I don't think we're going to go out of business – I can't believe that would ever happen, but our ability to provide what we've provided in the past is being whittled away."



SCOTT MITCHELL | SPECIAL TO VALLEY STAR

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS - Valley pole vaulter Kyle Ballew set a new personal best and broke Valley's record with a vault of 5.15 meters at Friday's meet.

|See **SPORTS**, Page 6|

CHALK ART FESTIVAL BRINGS SPLASH OF COLOR TO THE VALLEY CAMPUS

Students showcase their creative talents during Valley's first ever Chalk Art Festival.

COURTNEY BASSLER
STAFF WRITER

VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN | VALLEY STAR

ARTISTIC EXPRESSION - More than 25 students used chalk and soft pastels to beautify a section of campus with art.

To many students on campus the pavement can seem dull, but on Tuesday, the pavement became a canvas for students who participated in Valley College's first Chalk Art Festival.

The event was planned by Tamara Harutyunyan, ASU's commissioner of Fine Arts, as an outlet to unite artists on campus and encourage students to take an art class.

"I grew up in Armenia and every year in the capital city, they do this huge Chalk Art Festival where the entire community goes and participates," Harutyunyan said. "It's one of the best memories of my childhood."

JENNIFER MORGAN | VALLEY STAR

WOMAN'S BEST FRIEND - Art major Maria Payes works on a chalk art drawing of her dog during Valley's first ever Chalk Art Festival Tuesday.

This was the first Chalk Art Festival at Valley, but chalk art festivals are not uncommon to the Los Angeles area. The City of Pasadena holds a chalk art festival every year.

The festival inspired students to get involved on campus. Undecided major, John Alvarez saw people using the chalk as he walked by and wanted to find out what the contest was about. He asked Harutunyan if he could participate. Alvarez started drawing and came up with a person and incorporated the theme of nature to it.

"I got motivated when I saw the art," said Alvarez. "I never saw my final project coming. I tried to bring as much elements as I could. The ribbon on the body to represent fire, the torso and shoulders for vegetation, the hat for rocks and the swords for lighting."

The theme for the festival was nature, with students' artwork depicting their own interpretation of the theme. ASU provided chalk and soft pastels for students to use.

Art major Maria Payes was excited to depict her dog Zoey, which to her, is a beautiful product of nature and has an obvious tie-in to the theme.

"This is a chance to draw on the sidewalk," said Payes "you just normally can't go over and draw on the sidewalks without getting funny looks."

On top of the festival being an event to celebrate artists on campus, there was also a contest. The judges were members of the Art Department faculty and picked the top three artists that will be determined this week. Students can email Harutyunyan at missharutyunyan@gmail.com to find out the results or wait until they are posted.

Harutyunyan, the ASU, and the Art Department have also planned a Recycled Art Contest for Monday, April 11.

"We are a campus that really takes the issue of recycling seriously and since Earth Day was near, we decided to give students another opportunity to show us their creativity and imagination, but this time with recycled or reused materials," said Harutyunyan. "This is a great thing that brings awareness and pushes the students to think outside of the box."

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

The next issue of Valley Star will be available May 4.

Lot A will remain closed through summer. Students are reminded to observe lot regulations to avoid costly citations.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE:

Valley Star reviews Quentin Dupieux's "Rubber," a killer tire with psychic powers.

Also available online @ www.lavalleystar.com

DISASTER PREP ON CAMPUS

Students disagree on the amount of information shared with the campus community.

RACHEL FERREIRA
STAFF WRITER

In the wake of the natural disasters that struck Japan, many California residents are reevaluating their level of emergency preparedness. At Valley College, where many students spend a large portion of their week and are thereby completely reliant on the planning of the school, the need for an efficient crisis communication system becomes all the more important.

In the event of an emergency at Valley, students need to look to the designated marshal of the building

|See **DISASTER**, Page 2

Do you have a news tip? ⟫ Send us your news tip to valleystar@lavalleystar.com or join us on Facebook.

The Valley Star Info & Staff

THE VALLEY STAR is published by students of the journalism and photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program.

Under appropriate state and federal court decisions these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Materials published herein, including any opinions expressed and advertisements should not be interpreted as the position of the Los Angeles Community College District, the college, or any office or employee thereof.

Editorials are the opinion of the editorial board only and do not necessarily represent those of the entire staff. **Columns** are the opinion of the writer. **Letters** are the opinions of the reader.

Editorial and Advertising Offices
are located at
5800 Fulton Avenue
Valley Glen, CA 91401
(818) 947-2576.

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Lucas Thompson

MANAGING EDITOR
J.P. Spence

COPY EDITOR
Jamie Norried

NEWS EDITOR
Stephanie Colman

VALLEY LIFE EDITOR
David Motte

ONLINE MANAGER
Ivan Zuniga

PHOTO EDITOR
Ricardo Varela

STAFF WRITERS
Courtney Bassler, Rachel Ferreira, Nicole Hutchinson, Barry Jakob, Mindee Jorgensen, Josh Lawrence, Carolina Leon, Rubi Martinez, Nathan McMahon, Narine Petrosyan, Brad Taylor

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
Varughan Chapanian, Briana Farina, Eva Gala, Natalie Lozano, Jennifer Morgan, Edgar Robles, Todd Rosenblatt, Samson Uba

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Chip Rudolph

ADVISERS
Bill Dauber, Rod Lyons

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

FREE TUTORING FOR ALL STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED AT VALLEY COLLEGE.

MATH CENTER:
HOURS OF OPERATION:
Monday - Thursday
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

WRITING CENTER:
HOURS OF OPERATION:
Monday and Wednesday
1:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

BRING A VALID VALLEY COLLEGE I.D.

Complete Your Bachelor's Degree at
Azusa Pacific University

Choose from accelerated degrees online or on campus.

LIBERAL STUDIES
The B.A. in Human Development (HDEV) can prepare you for a career in education. In less than two years, you could be on your way to teaching in your own classroom.

LEADERSHIP
The versatile B.S. in Organizational Leadership (BSOL) makes it easy to take the next step in your career. You'll learn relevant business strategies that can empower you to become an effective leader.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMS
- Complete your degree in less than two years.
- Choose to earn your degree online, or attend class only one night a week at a location near you.
- Applicants for the HDEV program must be at least 22 years old; BSOL program applicants must be at least 25.

Find out about the next HDEV or BSOL program start date. Contact us today!
CALL (626) 815-5301
CLICK www.apu.edu/explore/caps
EMAIL aps@apu.edu
AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

AZUSA | HIGH DESERT | INLAND EMPIRE | LOS ANGELES
MURRIETA | ORANGE COUNTY | SAN DIEGO | VENTURA COUNTY | ONLINE

DISASTER

Continued from page 1

for direction. Marshals are staff member who have voluntarily gone through an online training program to deal with unforeseen emergencies on campus. There are four main zone marshals in charge of leading search and rescue operations throughout the campus, and several lesser marshals, one in every building, who will direct students and faculty away from danger.

Vice President of Administration Tom Jacobsmeyer estimates there are currently approximately 60 qualified marshals on campus and in the future, he would like to have the majority of the roughly 800 faculty members at Valley go through the emergency training. However, because the marshal program at Valley is voluntary and it is unrealistic to mandate that everyone become qualified, Jacobsmeyer sends out regular e-mails to the faculty to update them on safety procedures. He stresses however, that many students do not even realize that Valley is prepared to adequately handle an emergency on campus.

"You as a student need to know either to duck and cover or exit promptly depending on the situation," said Jacobsmeyer.

Chair of Emergency Services Department Alan Cowen feels that practicing a more hands-on approach to drills would benefit the student body so that they would better know what to do.

"We are more prepared than we were five years ago because we have a plan," said Cowen. "The plan that we have should be practiced. In other words, we should have more drills."

The amount of time teachers spend passing on the safety information they receive from the administration's notices varies from teacher to teacher.

"We [teachers] do receive information from Dean Jacobsmeyer. We get e-mails on safety procedures and reminders," said Spanish professor Rafael Arias.

Arias has always made it a point to keep students updated and after the power went out last semester, promptly reminded students to sign up for Alert-U texting system so that in future emergencies, they would receive warnings on their phones. Following the Japan earthquake and tsunami, he posted the LA Fire Department Handbook on Earthquake Preparedness on his class website.

For some students, the extent of the safety instruction they've received has been the evacuation plans they pass by on the walls of buildings like in the Allied Health & Sciences Center. For others, teachers have broken down step-by-step what to do in the event of an emergency.

Media arts major Robert Reber was impressed by the instruction broadcasting and media arts professor Dan Watanabe gave his class.

"I've had direction on how to protect myself when an earthquake is happening and to go to the door and follow the emergency evacuation plan posted. I also found out there is a how-to guide by the door for a situation like if someone had a gun or knife," said Reber.

Others feel rather dubious about how Valley would handle an earthquake.

"Maybe teachers should go over drills or safety tips the first week of class," said undecided major Maddie Alan-Lee.

NOT YOUR GRANDMA'S LIBRARY BOOK

The Valley College library received 2,180 new electronic books.

RACHEL FERREIRA
STAFF WRITER

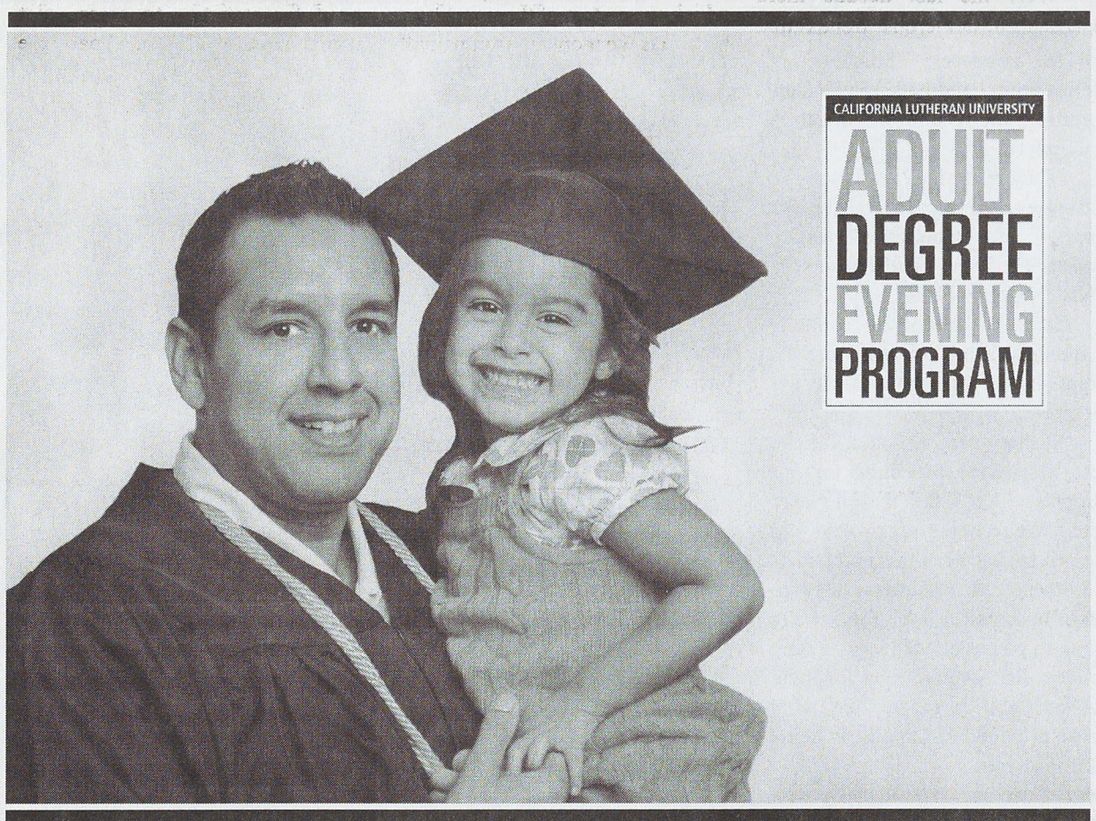
It has been a rough year for funding for Valley College, but the importance of available resources for students has not diminished, and subsequently the campus library was still able to add more than 2,100 new titles to its expansive collection of electronic books.

As electronic media becomes more popular, from the iPad 2's release in March to the growing popularity of online classes and the ability to submit homework electronically, the availability of online reference materials is also increasing. According the International Digital Publishing Forum, electronic book wholesale sales in the United States topped roughly $55 million. As a result, Valley has added more and more e-books to keep up with shifting demand.

The e-books come from a preselected collection of books determined by the California Community College Library Consortium. There are two main collections of e-books at Valley. Net Library contains regular non-fiction books and Gale Virtual Reference Library contains encyclopedias and specialized handbooks. For those business or computer science majors, there is also the smaller Safari Business and Technical Books Online vendor for those resources.

Since its development in 2005, Net Library e-book usage has gone up from 509 rentals in 2005-2006 to 1,977 rentals so far in 2010-2011. The more widely used Gale Virtual Reference Library, which was established in 2006, had 471 rentals in 2006-2007 and that number increased to 4,259 rentals so far in 2010-2011.

This story continues online. Please see LAValleyStar.com



LEARN LOCAL. THINK GLOBAL.
THE CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY ADULT DEGREE EVENING PROGRAM

Our Bachelor's Adult Degree Evening Program has expanded to our Woodland Hills Center.

TRANSFER TO CLU:
- Convenient, evening format to fit your busy lifestyle
- Accelerated 11-week terms
- Transfer up to 70 community college credits
- Recognition of the general education transfer curriculum (IGETC) to satisfy lower division requirements

BACHELOR'S DEGREES OFFERED:
- Accounting
- Business Management
- Organizational Leadership *(Now Online!)*

Make an appointment with Vanessa Chacon, Assistant Director of ADEP Woodland Hills, at 805.493.3324 or vchacon@callutheran.edu.

FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE

California Lutheran University
1.888.CLU-GRAD | www.callutheran.edu/la
THREE CONVENIENT LOCATIONS: THOUSAND OAKS, OXNARD AND WOODLAND HILLS

HEALTHCARE CAREERS OFFER JOB SECURITY

In tough economic times, experts say careers in healthcare are a recession-proof choice.

NICOLE HUTCHINSON
STAFF WRITER

As the economy continues to rebound at a snail's pace, opportunities in healthcare offer a prescription for success according to panelists at a recent "Careers in Healthcare" workshop hosted by Valley College's Career and Transfer Center.

"Believe me, you will not go wrong with a career in healthcare, whether it be in respiratory, nursing, pharmaceuticals, whichever," said panelist Peter Dean, recruitment coordinator from the School of Pharmacy at USC.

Healthcare professions have been said to be some of the most recession-proof and stable careers on the current job market with demand being higher than ever. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the healthcare industry has added an average of 20,000 jobs per month since August of last year.

Registered nurses make up the largest portion of professions in health care and the prerequisites in terms of education for these jobs can range from an AS to a BA.

"Nursing has always been pretty recession-proof, and is considered to be fairly stable," said Adrianne Maltese, a nursing instructor and workshop panelist who has taught psychiatric nursing at Valley for more than 18 years. "To me nursing is one of the best careers anyone can have. I'm very proud of our nursing program at Valley … I'd say it's the best in the district."

The Nursing Program at Valley accepts applications twice a year: September for spring semester and April for fall semester admission. In order to apply, the student must complete roughly seven prerequisite courses including Anatomy, Chemistry, and Nutrition.

Sal Santana, respiratory therapy instructor at Valley, discussed the Respiratory Therapy Program, which accepts applications on Nov. 1 for the clinical internship that begins in the spring of every year.

"[The work of an RT includes] giving oxygen to patients, helping patients who have asthma, helping patients with surgery, also, as an RT you can become an advisor to help people in homes with breathing," said Santana.

Santana expects a spike in demand for RT professionals in coming years due to evidence that many currently employed in the field will soon be retiring.

While each program requires the student to input a lot of time and effort, Maltese believes the end justifies the means.

"It is very fast paced but it will change your life," said Maltese.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BARRY JAKOB
STAFF WRITER

National News

WASHINGTON, D.C.–

Employment grew solidly for a second month in March, and the jobless rate hit a two-year low of 8.8 percent, underscoring a decisive shift in the labor market that should help to underpin the recovery. "The normal pattern is once it starts coming down as rapidly as it has over the last few months, it keeps on going down," said Bill Cheney, chief economist at John Hancock Financial Services in Boston. (Reuters)

For more local, national and international news, please see LAValleyStar.com

HIGHER PRIORITY

As every semester passes and available classes become scarce, it falls on the shoulders of students to take their education more seriously.

RACHEL FERREIRA
STAFF WRITER

California's effort at balancing the $25.4 billion deficit has come at the cost of higher education and yet the indifferent attitude of many self-entitled community college students when dropping classes hasn't changed. There is a greater call for increased responsibility from Valley College students now that available classes are becoming increasingly precious commodities.

For many who take community college seriously, Valley represents a stepping stone for transferring to a four-year university or a path to getting an associate degree. It is understandable that many students who have a full-time job or family commitments, compared to those in universities, will justify cutting back from a full-time school schedule to part time. However, this is not always the case for a large majority of those who "can't" wake up for the 8 a.m. class they so ambitiously signed up for at the start of the semester.

From shoddy Powerpoint presentations clearly put together the previous night to classes that are half empty by the time finals roll around, the school culture is not one that takes education seriously. At 12 percent, California unemployment is the second highest in the nation. There are people out there who cannot afford to hold onto their houses. Sorry if it is a little difficult to take the self-righteous anger that permeates campus every time another tuition hike is announced seriously when looking around at the amount of effort students are willing to put into their classes.

The California Community College District not only has 2.9 million students enrolled and climbing but also has some of the most affordable tuition for residents. According to the California Postsecondary Education report, in the 2008–2009 school year California had the lowest community college tuition in the entire nation. Legislators, understandably are looking at community college financial aid and tuition fees when it comes to balancing the budget and the expectation for them to take us seriously diminishes when we cannot even be bothered to show up to class.

Now that education is no longer an unlimited pool of resources and classes are becoming more and more overcrowded, it becomes even more imperative for those who do manage to get classes to take them seriously. There is a political science professor here at Valley who will say, "You're a waste of taxpayers' dollars" to those who walk in late to his class. Show some accountability.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administrators, faculty, staff, or students.

CORPORATE TAX DODGERS ARE THE NEW PATRIOTS

As our nation's political and business leaders demand more shared sacrifice from the middle class, corporations play the same old money-grubbing games.

NATHAN MCMAHON
STAFF WRITER

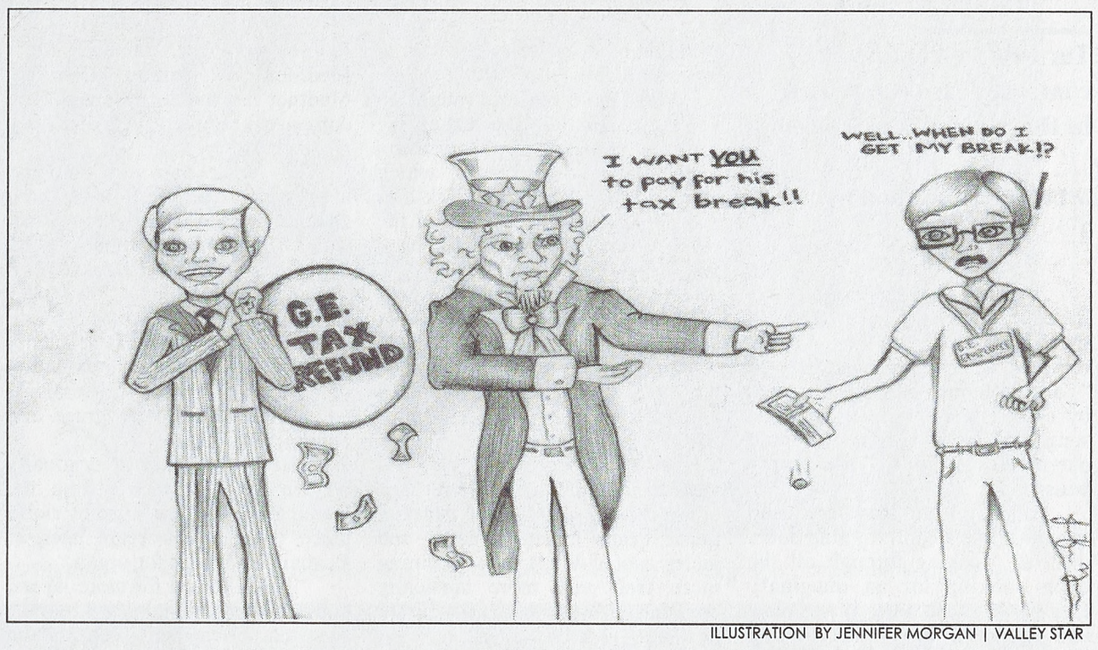


ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER MORGAN | VALLEY STAR

As tax season comes to an end and U.S. corporations released their financial statements, Vermont senator Bernie Sanders issued a press release highlighting, "The 10 worst corporate, income tax avoiders," and the list is full of putrid fraud from some of the biggest U.S. corporations.

In the simplest terms, this means that the average taxpayer spends more in taxes than a multi-billion-dollar-earning company and is left holding the ever-burdensome deficit bag.

These corporate pigs hide behind tax loopholes so enormous that their third or fourth Gulf Stream jet could be flown through the billions of dollars that should be paid to our public coffers. Instead, it's thrown into the already filled-to-the-brim-money trough so these, pinstriped, free-market, corporate welfare zealots can wallow in their newfound cash flow.

According to The New York Times, General Electric made $14.2 billion last year in profits. On top of the zero dollars in taxes they paid, they also received $3.2 billion dollars in tax credits. It helps when your tax avoidance team is a pool of former Internal Revenue Service agents, treasury officials, and congressional committee members who wrote those same tax laws, which is the very definition of conflict of interest..

The fix is in, and the utter lack of outrage is mindboggling.

On top of G.E.'s corporate tax contempt, they make claim that they need their union workers and employees to make major concessions and sacrifices on their pensions, benefits and wages. How noble of them to sacrifice their workers benefits for the greater good of the company shareholders.

In a recent interview with Think Progress, Mark Haller, a machinist at a G.E. plant, summed up the blatant hubris perfectly, "As taxpayers, we are subsidizing the profits of this company to a huge extent and now after making the company even more profitable, they are asking us to make concessions on pensions, benefits, and perhaps even wages."

The cherry on top of G.E.'s "let them eat cake" confection comes in the form of its CEO, Jeffrey Immelt, who also happens to head President Obama's Jobs Commission.

According to our president, the guy who is supposed to confront and solve our jobs problem in the U.S. is a corporate tax dodger who made ungodly amounts of money in the last year on the taxpayers' broken backs, while at the same time espousing fiscal austerity and supposed shared sacrifice to his more than 15,000 employees.

Sounds like another winning plan from the Obama administration.

GOING GREEN ISN'T AS EASY AS IT SEEMS

Arguments that support the conversion of libraries to fully electronic and paperless are cockamamie.

NICOLE HUTCHINSON
STAFF WRITER

Over the last decade there have been numerous trends that have permeated our society such as social networks, text messaging, and reality television. Now, the concept of "going green" has managed to stranglehold the mainstream for all the wrong reasons.

In response to Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed budget for 2011-2012, approximately $15 million in funds for California's library and literacy-related programs are set to be eliminated. Newport Beach is seriously considering transforming one of their libraries into a community center with all of the same amenities, sans the paper, paged, inked and bound forms of books as we know them. Instead, there will be a Netflix-esque system with the implementation of e-books, which supporters of the new library believe is the more environmentally and economically sound option. Talk about misconceptions.

According to a New York Times life-cycle assessment of e-readers versus traditional paperback, it was found that, "with respect to fossil fuels, water use and mineral consumption, the impact of one e-reader payback equals 40 to 50 books." In terms of global warming the equivalent is 100 books. Right there, any arguments justifying the conversion of an electronic library under the concept of ecological righteousness are shot.

In terms of saving money, the cost of creating an e-book amounts to more than an individual book. There's no need for statistics to assess that components of a circuit board are more than the compilation of paper.

Another argument people use in support of creating electronic libraries is that the economy would be better off. No, it won't. If these libraries become successful there will be less paper bought, putting people who rely on the paper-milling industry out of work. Also, it would cost more money electricity-wise to run the library.

Regardless of some cockamamie argument that an electronic library is superior ecologically or economically, no screen can provide a reader the simple pleasures a traditional book can. E-books will never have the unique feel of the off-white pages, the smell, the ability to dog-ear and annotate.

As people become more and more isolated with the world around them as technology continues to advance, it's depressing to see books, which have always been such a simple pleasure, at risk of extermination. Progression is important but the ridding of paperback when there are no real benefits is counterproductive.

EDGAR ROBLES | VALLEY STAR

STUDENTS ARE BEGINNING TO FEEL CRAMPED

The greatest thing about Valley is the parking.

J.P. SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

No one is disagreeing there needs to be major upgrades in Parking Lot A. Timing, meanwhile, is a whole other issue.

From April 1 until Aug. 19, Parking Lot A will be closed as part of Valley College's never-ending $626 million campus revitalization project that has become the modern day Xanadu.

Valley President Sue Carleo claimed that statistics show that fewer students utilize campus parking this time of year and that the project could not be completed strictly over the summer.

Yes, fewer students utilize parking spots this time of year because of the natural dropout rate that occurs every semester, but that's a hard argument to swallow considering retention rates have increased for three years straight.

While completing Lot A strictly during the summer may not have been feasible, it would have been a better option than what students are saddled with now. If construction were still ongoing during the first few weeks of school, it would have been typical of classic parking issues that occur at start of every semester and would result in less student backlash. Secondly, doing construction now only hinders the students that continue to go to school. It's not that there is malevolent intention here, maybe just lack of consideration

Valley's Vice President of Administrative Services Tom Jacobsmeyer stated that student representatives who attend bi-weekly College Bond Work Group meetings were tasked with informing the campus community about the upcoming lot closure. Information was also posted on the college website.

That's a great move to shoulder the burden to the students. It's not asking too much from administration to put more emphasis on the lack of parking in a sardine can of a campus. If April 1 was the deadline to begin with, fine, but obviously the joke is on the students. There should've been a bigger push and effort to inform the students. Maybe something like a sign not posted the day of-just a thought.

We the students appreciate the wider lanes, more lighting and emergency phone station that are to come, but or now, we would just appreciate some parking; we should be thankful we have tennis courts.

VALLEY VIEW | WHERE WILL YOU PARK NOW THAT TWO AND A HALF PARKING LOTS ARE CLOSED?

"In parking Lot E. I've always parked there. The parking doesn't effect me because I get here early. I get here at 7:30 for an 8 o'clock class."
-CATALINA FLORES NURSING

"Nowhere because I don't drive. I don't have my license yet."
-PIATONI ENRIQUEZ CHILD DEVELOPMENT

"First I used to park on the other side of Ethel, but now it's private we have to walk. It sucks that lots are closed and it's harder to park."
-GABRIEL CENICEROS CHILD DEVELOPMENT

"Are you serious? Two parking lots are closed? Wow. I always park in parking lot B. That's why the parking lot was so full."
-DANA BURNS COMMUNICATIONS

"I live close to the school so I take the bus. It's easy for me. Gas prices are going up, so I might as well just take the bus."
-JESSICA LOPEZ CRIMINAL JUSTICE

COMPILED BY COURTNEY BASSLER AND VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN | VALLEY STAR

TWO CENTS FROM SPENCE

KILLING IN THE NAME OF

Quran-burning pastor from Florida is the epitome of ignorance.

J.P. SPENCE

It's really hard for us Americans to act as superior as we think we are and be the world's police when we're too busy trying to be complete intolerant, ignorant dolts.

Sixteen people were needlessly killed over the weekend in Kandahar, Afghanistan over a Quran-burning "trial" that was held at a Florida evangelical church.

President Obama commented, "The desecration of any holy text, including the Quran, is an act of extreme intolerance and bigotry," in a prepared statement. "However, to attack and kill innocent people in response is outrageous, and an affront to human decency and dignity."

True; two wrongs never make anything, right but in reality this is due to just one big-fat-pot-calling-kettle-black-hypocrite schmuck-fest. And thank God we have the Rev. Terry Jones of the Dove World Outreach Center in lovely Gainesville, Fla. as the source for all this. It should be noted that Jones was the bigoted cretin who gained media exposure last year by contemplating burning the Quran on 9/11 as a good idea until everybody told him it wasn't.

It's fantastic that right now the world is focused on a bass-ackwards pastor from some backwoods church who holds protest signs that say, "God Hates" homosexuals at military funerals and sells T-shirts that say, "Islam of the Devil" (because saying "Islam is THE Devil" would be going too far) as the current representative of what an American is. To be fair though, unfortunately, that's a pretty accurate portrait.

Here's why. It's not that we have freedom of speech even though the loudest thoughts are from idiots or freedom of religion because that actually is pretty cool. It's because Americans think that because they can say whatever they want that somehow they are right. Even though in most cases people won't let a thing like logic get in the way of a good argument.

At least not for Jones. In an e-mail statement released Friday, the idiot, er … pastor, did not give a reason for this atrocity. He did however deplore the backlash in Afghanistan as "a very tragic and criminal action," and called on the government and United Nations to "call these people to justice."

Seeing as this was an international protest over religion and our government has this whole First Amendment thing about "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof…" it seems unlikely that will happen. However, if that were to change, Jones should find solace that he could be legally responsible for the death of 16 people.

One final truth nugget from our good shepherd. Regarding Islam, Jones said it "is not a religion of peace." Awesome. We should all thank God that Christianity is. This is the same religion involved with the fall of both Roman and Byzantine empires, the Middle Ages, the Crusades, the Spanish Inquisition and countless straight-to-DVD VeggieTales movies. The last thing Jones, and in most cases extremist religious nutbags, are experts on besides faith, patience, respect, love, humanity, rationale, morality, integrity, tolerance, Jesus Christ, or Christianity, is peace.

So, Mr. Jones, from the collective world community who would like to see the world not destroyed in the name of some thousands-year-old person, please shut the hell up.

E-mail J.P. Spence at
managing@lavalleystar.com
Send general comments to
valleystar@lavalleystar.com

! THINK TRANSFER

APRIL

Thursday, 7

UC Santa Cruz Rep
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Undecided Major/
Career Workshop
5-6 p.m.

CAREER WEEK 11-14

Monday, 11

Green Careers Fair
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Monarch Square
Green Careers
Speakers Panel
1-2:30 p.m. Foreign
Language 102
CSU Northridge
Rep
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Undecided Major/
Career Workshop
1-2 p.m.
How to Transfer
Workshop
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 12

College and
Majors Fair
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Monarch Square
How to Transfer
Workshop 1-2 p.m.
CSUN Mentor
1-5 p.m.

Wednesday, 13

Job Fair
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Monarch Square
Resume Writing
and Interview Skills
Workshop 1-2 p.m.
and repeated
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, 14

Service Learning
Volunteer Fair
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Monarch Square
"Here I am at
Valley. What Road
Do I take Next?"
Workshop 1-2 p.m.
and repeated
5:30-6:30 p.m.

All activities held in the Career/Transfer Center, Student Services Annex, unless other wise indicated. For further information call (818) 947-2646 or go online www.lavc.edu/transfer

PIANIST REVEALS HER INNER CHILD

Turn-of-the-century composers are showcased in this short piano concert.

MINDEE JORGENSEN
STAFF WRITER

As Kanae Matsumoto was introduced, she politely walked to the piano, sat down, and jumped right into an energetic piece entitled "Valses Nobles et Sentimentale" by composer Maurice Ravel. The song brought up visions of a child playing alone in a large empty house.

At times it was fast and sporadic, like a child running down the hall, peeking through all the doors looking for an imaginary friend. At other times it was slow and peaceful, like a child winding down at night, slowly falling asleep to the sound of a jewelry box ticking away a lullaby.

Matsumoto herself brought up visions of a child. She had a very youthful smile, and was wearing a brightly colored blouse, which complimented her shiny black hair and petite stature. She played the piano gracefully, swaying back and forth while gently touching the keys at the softer parts. She was extremely beautiful, and so was her playing.

Matsumoto played a short, three-piece concert, which revolved around composers from the turn of the 20th century.

"All the composers I picked were born within 11 years of each other. At the turn of the century, music began loosing tonality and meter; a lot of things were becoming more free, and more musically colorful," Matsumoto said of her choice in pieces.

Her second piece was by a Russian composer named Nikolai Medtner. Matsumoto described Medtner as an "often neglected composer, rarely played and very melancholy."

The song was very sad and expressive, freely flowing and changing tempo and dynamics. It was a fluid song, like the running water of a mountain stream as it changes courses and flows over rocks and other obstacles. There was no musical phrase that stood out as a melody, rather a combination of peaceful musical expressions, which she played with grace and emotion.

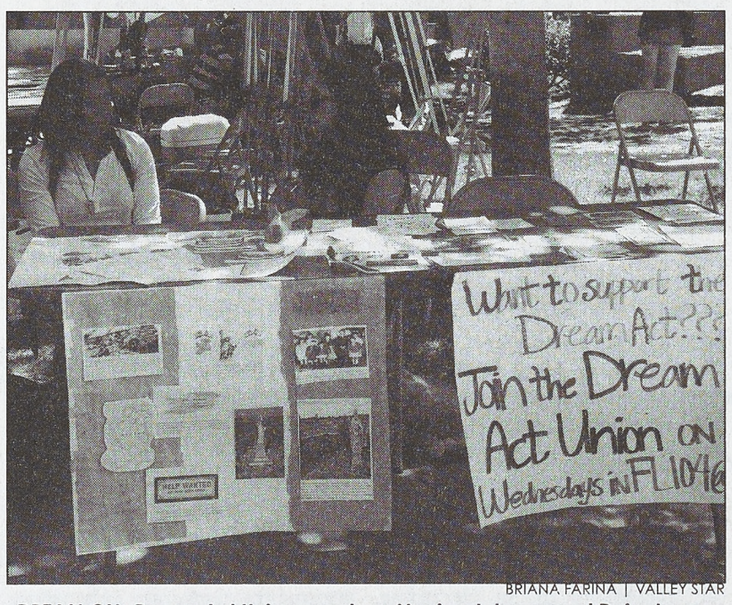
Her last piece was originally written by J.S. Bach during the Baroque period as a solo violin piece. About 150 years later, F. Busoni arranged it for organ.

"This allowed for more layers, and a massive, monumental sound," she said. "The song repeats the main musical phrase in different variations, for example starting in D minor and going to D major, and then back to D minor."

It was full and epic, with lots of energy and harmonies, and massive layers. A very good closer, the melody was familiar and the frills and arpeggios really let her skills shine through without being overbearing. It was a great concert by a beautiful and talented young woman.

EVA J. GALA | VALLEY STAR

MUSIC SPEAKS - Pianist Kanae Matsumoto engages audience members in a Q&A session Wednesday, after performing in Valley's weekly concert series.



BRIANA FARINA | VALLEY STAR

DREAM ON- Dream Act Union members Monica Johnson and Deisy Lopez.

CAMPUS UNITED BY CLUB DAY

ASU's most recent club day was a big hit amongst students.

CAROLINA LEON
STAFF WRITER

The sun was warm, music was playing loudly and clubs were eagerly awaiting Valley College students at Monarch Square during Club Day on March 30. Sponsored by the Associated Student Union, Club Day usually attracts a small crowd, but surprisingly, this time it was a big hit.

It's hard to bring a campus together, but club days are held to do exactly that -- bring students together who share a common interest.

"[Club days] are really fun. Usually the same students return to see us and what we're doing next," said Sarah Ballard, member of the Black Student Union. "Every Club Day we try to highlight a portion of the theme assigned. This time we highlighted celebrities of Afro descent in Europe to show others the potential of what you can be."

Many clubs, such as the Black Student Union participated in the European culture theme by displaying posters and spreading knowledge through casual conversation.

Others participated in different ways; the Armenian Club lured students in by appealing to their taste buds. The Armenian pizza and chicken kabob wraps were popular, and left many students wanting more of the newly tried food. Club members also provided pamphlets to educate others about their history, culture and language.

"Armenia has maintained their identity through their language and religion," said Armenian Club member Ani Aslanian. "In this club we are representing our culture, our strive and our motivation."

The Political Action Coalition sponsored "Die-In," a protest for budget cuts and fee increases during Club Day.

"Club day is a perfect opportunity to stand up for higher education," said Political Action Coalition member Marcos Perez. "It's our responsibility to fight the attack on education."

A variety of events took place during Club Day, and it's for the students by the students. Since education is in process here, a lot of time is invested and it's an opportunity to get to know the campus.

Master the leader in you.
The Bachelor of Science in Management
The Pepperdine Advantage
- Lead the way by adding the prestige of Pepperdine University to your resumé
- Complete your bachelor's degree in two years with evening and weekend classes, and earn your MBA in as little as one additional year
- Transfer to Pepperdine's Graziadio School with a minimum of 60 lower-division units
- Guaranteed admission through TAG community college partnerships
Learn more by attending an upcoming Information Session.
Encino Campus: April 9 & April 20
bschool.pepperdine.edu
PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY
Graziadio School of Business and Management
Encino, Irvine, and West LA Graduate Campuses

JERSEY BORE

"The Real World" introduced us to reality TV, creating a country of teen moms and instant celebrity.

BRAD TAYLOR
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

In 1992 MTV introduced us to the true story of eight strangers picked to live in a house, work together and have their lives taped to find out what happens "when people stop being polite and start getting real," and in doing so destroyed a network and quite possibly society.

Here's the thing folks: these shows are not real in any sense of the word. They are junk-food TV that makes us fat and lazy in the head. No one is sure what exactly a Snookie is, but I know that one is very famous for using a Bumpit in her hair while throwing up in a hot tub.

The truth about these shows is they have writers and a team of producers calculating every move these actors make. When things get boring the producers stir up trouble by spreading rumors and inciting action, even going as far as recreating fights that were not caught on camera.

Valley College students should be especially concerned about this growing trend. The more reality TV produced, the more money is lost by local businesses that rely on studio revenue. These shows film mostly out of state and keep our city in debt. Many of the writers do not receive the union pay scale, as they are not allowed to be credited.

Some of these shows on the surface have good intentions, shining a light on issues not often touched by traditional TV; HIV, teen pregnancy and interracial tensions have been given the spotlight, but these issues tend to get clouded and over-shadowed by actors trying to outdo one another to get more face time. And shows like "Teen Mom" have ironically turned the serious subject into a chance for instant celebrity.

The effects of these shows can be seen in every mall, high school, suburb and community college. Walking on campus, count how many "Jersey Shore" clones you encounter. Ladies, rethink those hairstyles unless you are auditioning for a 1984 Bon Jovi video.

If TV producers want to create an actual reality show, tell them to bring those cameras to Valley. Imagine an actual show about community college students trying to balance work and school while dealing with no parking, no classes and rising tuition fees.

Until TV and audiences wise up, and think about this; Snookie is getting paid $32,000 to speak at universities and has had a book on The New York Times best seller list. The apocalypse is certainly on its way, luckily it will be televised and get its own spin-off.

COURTESY OF I-MOVIECHANNEL.COM

WEEKEND CONCERT AT VALLEY IS A SUCCESS

Taking on baroque, Valley Symphony Orchestra hits a high note of measured musical grace.

NATHAN MCMAHON
STAFF WRITER

Classical pieces from Bach, Purcell, Stroope, Vivaldi, and Handel were played to a packed house inside the Mainstage Theatre Saturday night. "Baroque Bash was a wonderful success with the Valley Symphony Orchestra showcasing their robust talent onstage.

Composed of a splash of wood tones from various stringed instruments with the occasional glint of brass from horns and black lacquer from oboes. Led by conductor, Michael Hriar Arshagouni, the Valley Symphony Orchestra is an appropriately eclectic group of musicians and singers. The night started with a seven - part piece by Johann Sebastian Bach entitled "Orchestral Suite No. 1 in C." The intro was a fast paced and upbeat section of the performance, which included repeated choruses of vibrant, dancing strings and layered dancing hops of the oboes. Both of these instruments meshed well with each other and the repetitive nature of the song allowed for a perfect build in this compelling story of music.

The second piece performed, written by Henry Purcell, was titled, "Birthday Ode for Queen Mary." It was appropriately regal and the inclusion of the College Choir was an interesting addition. Unfortunately, the choir itself seemed out of tune and sung half-heartedly. This detracted from the instrumentals and the musical arrangement was drowned out by the off key vocals.

The third musical number was a more modern piece, which went against the baroque theme of the evening. Titled, "Inscription of Hope" by Z. Randall Stroope, it was dedicated to the people of Japan and the tragic earthquake and Tsunami that recently devastated the country.

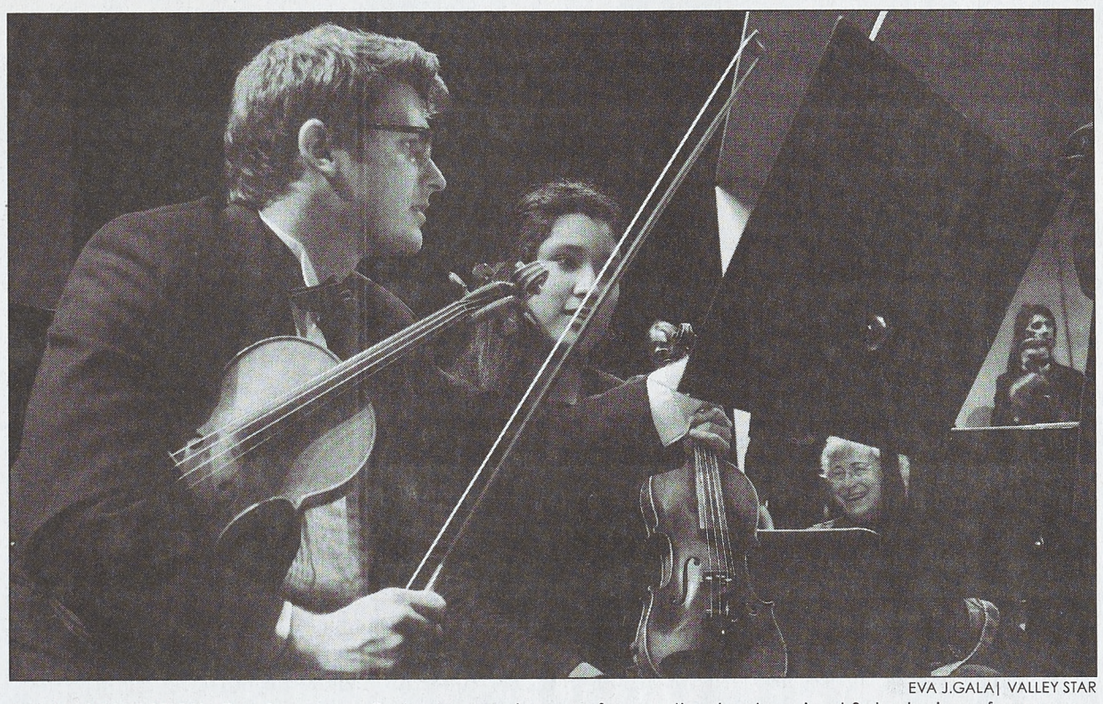
The fourth composition performed was by Antonio Vivaldi. Titled, "Concerto in G for 2 Guitars," it was the standout performance of the night.

The introduction of two classical guitar players, a student teacher mash-up of, Atticus Cashielle, Travis McKittrick, and Gregory Newton, the orchestra was brought to a rousing level of guitar picking and orchestral licks that perfectly complimented each other. Despite a few missed notes, it was a sight to see for the audience as McKittrick bobbed his head in time to the music.

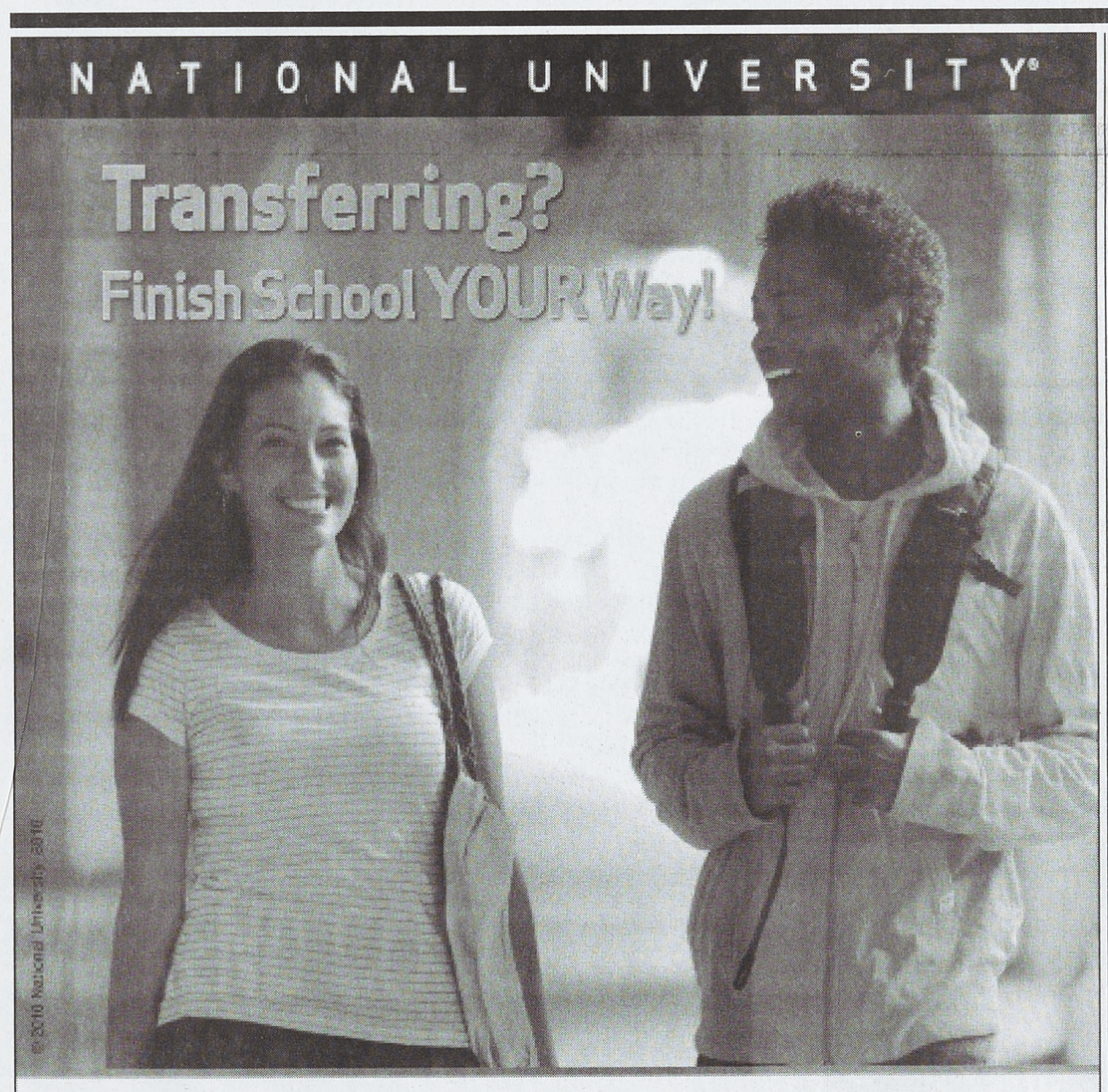
The last piece of the night was "Ode for the Birthday of Queen Anne," by George Handel. The introduction of the more sure voiced Philharmonic Choir was pleasing and the tone of the piece fit in well with the night.

Overall, the entire concert was wonderfully executed with slight missteps here and there but nothing to detract from the experience and talent on display. It was a night of wonderful baroque music played to near perfection.

EVA J. GALA | VALLEY STAR
TAKING THE LEAD- Michael Arshagouni conducts the Valley Symphony Orchestra Saturday night at the Music Recotal Hall.



EVA J.GALA| VALLEY STAR
MINOR CORRECTION - Two Symphony Orchestra members confer over the sheet music at Saturday's performance.



At National University, we know you can't sit in class all day or lock yourself in a library – you've got work, family, and friends. You're transferring because you want to finish your degree and move on into a new career. National University makes that possible with...

» Streamlined admissions
» No enrollment fee
» Flexible scheduling
» Unique one-course-per-month format
» Scholarship programs

SHERMAN OAKS CAMPUS
14724 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 801 • 818.817.2460

LOS ANGELES CAMPUS
5245 Pacific Concourse Drive, Suite 100 • 310.662.2000

The University of Values

800.NAT.UNIV | getinfo.nu.edu/transfer

"WIN WIN" LIVES UP TO ITS BILLING

Paul Giamatti and director Thomas McCarthy deliver a winning film that is substance over style.

J.P. SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

There are so many films in the Cineplex involving CGI rabbits, ghost soldiers trapped in time, and pills that make you brainy, it's nice a change of pace to have a film involve acting.

Entering its first week in wide-release, director Thomas McCarthy's "Win Win" is a superb film that manages to be as up as it is down.

Paul Giamatti plays Mike Flaherty, a New Jersey attorney who's down on his luck in life and his high school wrestling team. After becoming the sole conservator over his client Leo Poplar (Burt Young), Flaherty's life gets more complicated when he takes in Poplar's grandson and begins to view people as human beings and not dollar signs

"Win Win" plays within the sports/drama/comedy genre but the characters are so well developed and invested in that the conventional plotline is merely a secondary thought.

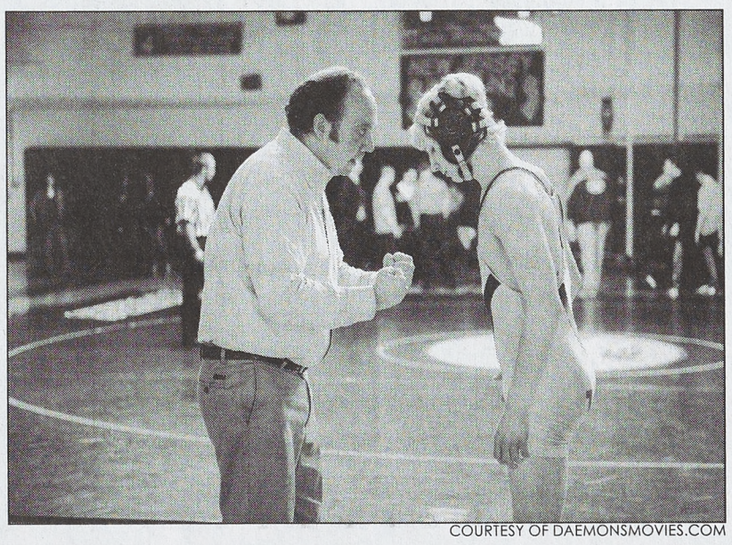
It's a shame that the film was released in the spring because Giamatti's fantastic portrayal of Flaherty would have made him a strong contender at Oscar time. The balance Giamatti plays between scumbag lawyer, motivational coach, and trying family man is complex and heartfelt.

Amy Ryan continues to be one of the best character actresses today with a great turn as Flaherty's wife Jackie. Her character may appear to be one-dimensional but it's her effervescence that is the anchor for her family and this film when things turn sour.

A terrific supporting cast also contributes to the film's successfulness. Bobby Cannavale and Jeffrey Tambor play the wrestling team's assistant coaches and while they have some of the funnier moments in the film, they also help to highlight the underlying theme of trying to find some solace in life's maelstrom.

The real star however is Thomas McCarthy. McCarthy, who wrote and directed the film, has an amazing knack for developing such depth from characters that would appear to be one note. Watching "Up," "The Station Agent," and "The Visitor" is essential viewing and proof that McCarthy isn't a fluke. The man knows how to write for film.

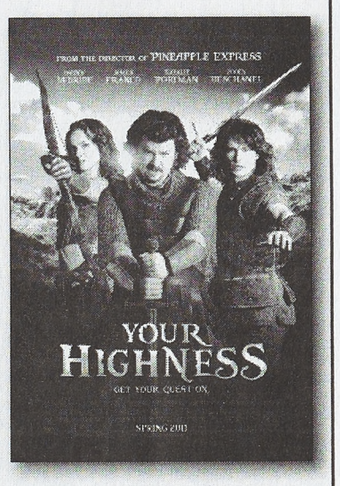
"Win Win" is the epitome of a small indie flick: great story, great characters with no frills directing. It may not wow with bells and whistles, but it doesn't have to.



COURTESY OF DAEMONSMOVIES.COM

@THE MOVIES

OPENING THIS WEEKEND



YOUR HIGHNESS

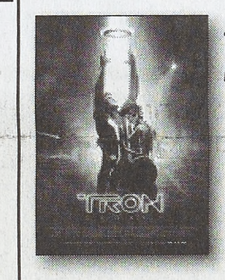
DANNY MCBRIDE
JAMES FRANCO
NATALIE PORTMAN
ZOOEY DESCHANEL

TOP 5 BOX OFFICE:

- *HOP: $38.1M+*
- *SOURCE CODE: $15.1M+*
- *INSIDIOUS: $13.5M+*
- *WIMPY KID: $10.2M+*
- *LIMITLESS: $9.4M+*

MEDIA RELEASES

DVD



TRON: LEGACY

ALSO AVAILABLE:

- *CHRONICLES OF NARNIA*
- *LITTLE FOCKERS*
- *I LOVE YOU PHILLIP MORRIS*
- *TAXI DRIVER*

SONGS TOP DOWNLOADS

KATY PERRY

E.T.

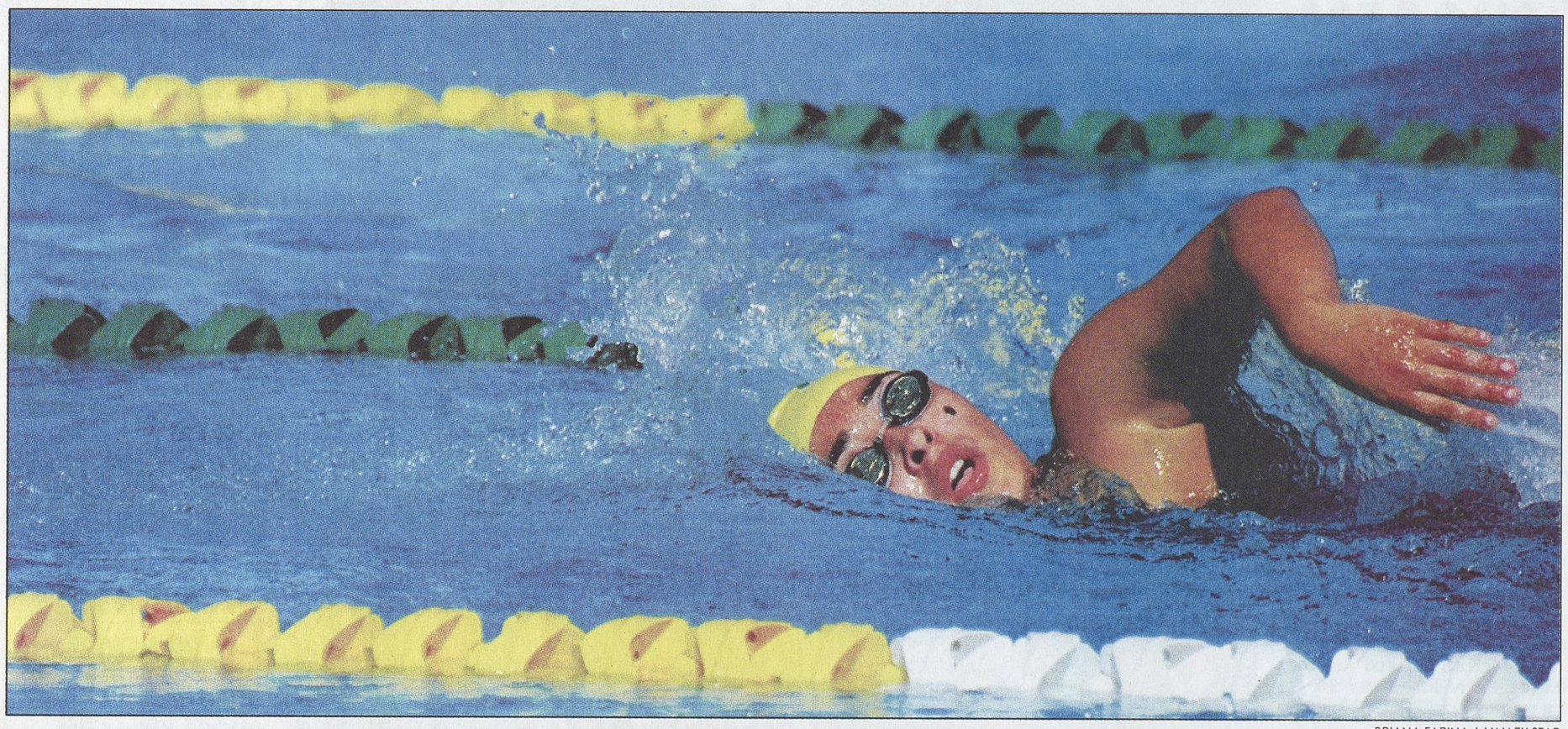
ALSO:

- *BLACK EYED PEAS - JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH*
- *RIHANNA - S&M*
- *JENNIFER LOPEZ - ON THE FLOOR*
- *ADELE - ROLLING IN THE DEEP*

CONCERTS & THEATRE

- *RISE AGAINST: APRIL 7 LONG BEACH ARENA*
- *T.S.O.L: APRIL 8 THE VAULT*
- *JOHN MELLENCAMP: APRIL 8 NOKIA THEATRE*
- *QUIET RIOT: APRIL 9 NATIONAL ORANGE SPEEDWAY*
- *BRIAN ADAMS: APRIL 9 ROYCE HALL - UCLA*
- *THE RESIDENTS: APRIIL 9 EL REY THEATRE*
- *JANET JACKSON: APRIL 10 SANTA BARBARA BOWL*
- *BRIGHT EYES: APIL 13 THE FOX THEATRE*

COMPETITION HEATS UP DURING CONFERENCE MEET



BRIANA FARINA | VALLEY STAR

CONFERENCE - Women's swim team member Elke Besvold competed in the conference meet held at Valley College Friday. The team competed against Ventura and Bakersfield colleges.

Monarchs competed in the third Western Conference meet of the season against Bakersfield and Ventura College.

IVAN ZUNIGA
STAFF WRITER

The strong aroma of chlorine and sunscreen filled the air surrounding the swimming pool at Valley College last Friday during the Western State Conference meet. Competing against some of the fastest teams in the Western State Conference, Valley made an effort to catch up in each event.

The men's team placed second with 44 points and the women's team scored 52 points, earning third place in the meet. Bakersfield won first place with 79 points for the women's rankings and Ventura with 122 points in the men's rankings.

"Overall I think as a team we need to be ready to compete," Valley swimming and diving Head Coach Jim McMillan said. "I'm not sure if some of the guys were focused enough, but we did have some very good swims."

Kris Plavchyan set a new record in the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 1:53.15. Gabriel Fernandez, Gary Arthur, and Robert Cordobes broke the record in the in the 400 free medley (3:16.41), and they also broke the 200 medley record for Valley last week at Pierce College.

The men's team held its own in several events. Gary Arthur earned first place in the 200 butterfly with a final time of 1:56.77 and Ian Rotundo placed sixth in the lengthy 500 (5:03.87).

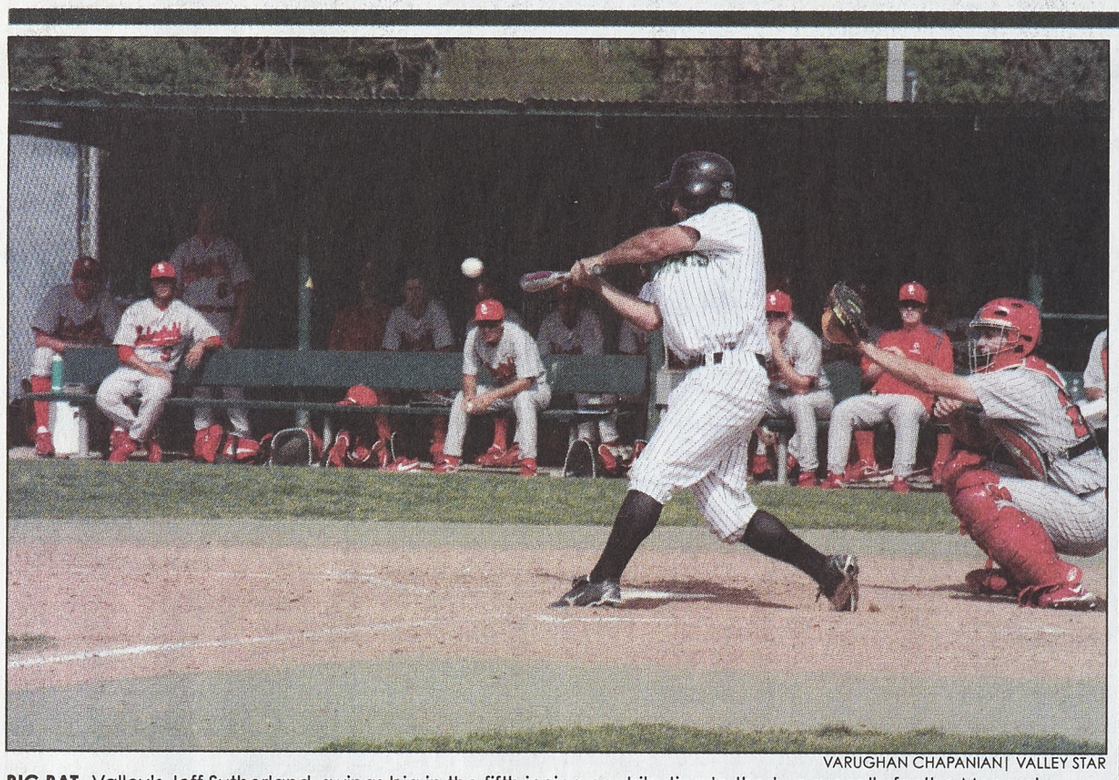
The women's team showed tremendous improvement since the last meet at Pierce, Giorgia Pino (1:08.07) earned first place in the 100 backstroke and Rashin Durabi (1:09.82) placed second in the same event. Sarah Ho (1:15.84) also won first in the 100 breast stroke.

"I thought our girls swam great," said Valley women's Head Coach Mike Santo. "We've been training really hard and [the] girls are physically exhausted … their bodies are torn down, and yet every week the girls step up and swim a little bit faster. I can't ask for any more than that."

The tri-meet, which included 126 events and 89-degree weather, turned out to be difficult for the Monarchs early on as Bakersfield and Ventura dominated the first events. However, the Monarchs caught stride late in the meet.

"The weather was fine, the water was cool, the other teams were really good. It was tough meet because our team is really small," said Valley swimmer Alexandra Arevalo. "Now I know what to do for the next meet, and the workouts have really helped."

The Monarchs' next meet is at Questa College for their fourth WSC Quad April 8 at 2:30 p.m.



VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN| VALLEY STAR

BIG BAT- Valley's Jeff Sutherland, swings big in the fifth inning contributing to the two run rally for the Monarchs.

CONTROVERSY PLAGUES FIELD

Two controversial calls help the Renegades defeat the Monarchs, 8-7.

JOSHUA LAWRENCE
STAFF WRITER

Monarch pitcher David Armas got off to a slow start as the Bakersfield Renegades scored two runs in the first inning.

Armas couldn't find the strike zone for his first batter, as he was able to earn a lead-off walk. A sacrifice bunt moved the runner to second. A surprise drag bunt moved the runner to third and allowed the batter to reach first base safely. A sacrifice fly with one out brought the runner home. After a stolen base, the Renegades were able to drive their second run home on a base hit.

"David Armas didn't have his best stuff today," said Monarch Head Coach Dave Mallas. "He settled down in the second but then fell behind again in the fifth."

The Monarchs were able to avoid the shutout in the fourth inning as outfielder Bryce Kelly came across home plate due to a pop fly ball that landed in between three Renegade fielders. Third baseman Eric Folkers scored on a sacrifice ground ball RBI from designated hitter, Fabian Loza, evening the score 2-2.

The fifth inning had a total of six runs. The Renegades earned two of their runs on a triple from second baseman David Pennington that brought two base runners home. The final run came after a sacrifice fly to center field. Kelly drove two of the Monarchs runs in on a triple to right-center field. The final run of the inning came on a double from Folkers, tying the game 5-5.

Controversy came in the top of the eighth inning as Folkers thwarted an attempted sacrifice bunt. He threw the ball to second and from there the ball was thrown to first for a double play. However, base umpire Scott Keene said he didn't have a good angle on the play and therefore the runner was deemed safe at first, extending the inning and tiring relief pitcher Freddy Contreras.

With the Monarchs down by two runs in the bottom of the ninth inning after battling back from a three-run deficit in the fifth, outfielder Jesus Castellanos earned a one-out walk and stole second on a wild pitch. Folkers connected for a base hit that sent Castellanos home, bringing the Monarchs within one, 8-7. Outfielder Chris Viltz hit the ball to third and a wild throw forced the Renegade first baseman off the bag. However, Umpire Keene saw it differently and ruled the runner out at first, ending the game and causing the Monarchs to lose 8-7.

"We just got to play more consistent," said Mallas. "Playing okay at this time of year is not getting it done."

MONARCHS SET NEW RECORDS IN CONFERENCE MEET

Last Friday the track and field team competed at Valley College for the second conference meet of the season.

IVAN ZUNIGA
ONLINE MANAGER

So far the Valley College track and field teams have had a fair share of good and bad performances this season, but in the last nine meets members on each team have stepped up and broken two personal and two school records.

With 10 meets left in the season the team has plenty of opportunities to qualify for the western state prelims on April 21.

In the second meet of the Western State Conference on April 1, the Monarchs competed against Santa Barbara, Citrus, Glendale, West Los Angeles and Bakersfield. With more than 20 events and heats for the men's and women's teams, Valley ranked fourth with 72 points in the women's rankings and fifth with 42 points in the men's.

"Friday's track meet at Valley was successful on several levels, from the organization, preparation, and coordinating of the event to the exemplary performance of the athletes," said Valley's Sports Information Director Dale Beck. "Naturally we're very proud of the accomplishments of Kyle Ballew and Alison Regan, who set school records in the pole vault."

During the meet, Kyle Ballew broke his personal vaulting record of 16-10.75 (5.15m) and Alison Regan also set a new record in the pole vault at 9-9.25.

"We have had a lot of injuries this season with a few key runners, but there is room for improvement in the next big meet at the conference prelims," said men's Head Coach Francois Wolman. "So right now pretty much kudos to both teams."

The men's team displayed a steady set of times in a variety of events throughout the meet. In the first race of the meet Patrick Dayao took first place in the third heat of the 100 with a final time of 11.81 seconds. In the 3,000-meter heat Jorge Mendez (9:14.28) and Manuel Gutierrez (9:20.44) both led the race Mendez won first and Guitierrez second.

Leading the pack in the first race for the women's team, Jasmine Woods placed first in the 100 with a time of 12:14, earning the first ten points for the team. The women's team then dominated the 200 and placed first place in all four heats.

In the 4 x 100 relay (47:80) freshman athletes Chiza Eze, Alva Castillo, Adrianna and Blanco Jasmine Woods placed first. In the long jump Alva Castillo won with a distance of 5.10, scoring eight points.

"It was a well run meet [and] everything went smooth. [The] weather was great … we had some really good performances," Valley women's Head Coach Yannick Allain said. "For some reason this track meet we host every year produces some of the fastest times of the season across the board whether it's our home athletes or our visiting athletes."

So far this season the track and field teams have worked together since the first meet at Pomona, where each broke personal records and have been able to keep a steady constant set of rankings in each meet.

The Monarchs' next meet will be at the Mt.SAC Relays on Saturday.

ANALYZE THIS

DODGER DOGS, PEANUTS AND COMAS

The recent beating of a San Francisco native at Chavez Ravine shows, once again, the unintelligible nature of many sports fans.

LUCAS THOMPSON

If you attend a Los Angeles Dodgers games sporting the "LA" logo tattooed on your neck, spend all of your paycheck on alcohol during the game, and feel it necessary to proclaim how much the "Giants sucks" between each sip of your beer … then I call on you to stay home. Watch the game from your television and take the violence out of Chavez Ravine.

During the Dodgers opening day game against the San Francisco Giants, two Dodgers fans attacked a man decked out in Giants gear. Bryan Stow, a paramedic from Santa Cruz, has been placed in a medically induced coma after the two men hit him from behind, causing him to hit his head on the concrete, leaving him unconscious.

According to ABC news, the attack took place as Stow and two of his friends, who had made the road trip down with him, were heading to their car after the game.

"We get called to a lot of fights, and he's always the one to calm things down, get people laughing," Rebecca Mackowiak, who worked along Stow as a paramedic, said in an interview with the San Francisco Chronicle. "There is no doubt in my mind that if these guys were harassing him, he just walked away."

Although the incident speaks volumes on the lack of stadium security, especially during rivalry games, it also relates to the intelligence of certain fans entering the stadium. This is what it has come down to? Really?

It's tragic that any Dodgers fan could feel so entitled, on any level, to harass a fan rooting for an opposing team. Granted, this is a heated rivalry between two teams that have historically hated each other on the diamond, but this is sports, not gang warfare.

We shouldn't have to debate whether or not the stadium has enough security, or if halting the sales of alcohol after the seventh inning is ample time for the audience to sober up prior to heading home. We should be calling out the fans. Let's not overlook the fact that 72 so-called "fans" were arrested, and 48 more cited during the same game.

The media continues to analyze safety at sporting events rather than demand a code of conduct from those attending. No one ever talked about the fan that threw the soft drink at Ron Artest during a 2004 brawl between the Indiana Pacers and Detroit Pistons. There's no condoning Artest running into the stands and beating the man down, but I bet the unknown drink-tosser never exercises his throwing arm when it comes to soft drinks again.

There needs to be consequences, and there needs to be action. It's time to exercise some maturity and intelligence in our ballparks and sports arenas throughout the country. It's time to grow up "Blue Crew" fans, and if you can't … stay home.

E-mail Lucas Thompson at editor@lavalleystar.com